



County Supervisor Mary N. Piepho, District III

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PRESS RELEASE

**VASCO ROAD SAFETY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT ACCEPTED BY THE BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 27, 2007

Contact: Amy Prentice
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BRENTWOOD— Vasco Road, a major commuter and truck route within Contra Costa County and Alameda County, known for its numerous collisions involving injuries and multiple fatalities, has come a step closer to much needed safety improvements. On July 24, 2007 Board Chair Supervisor Mary N. Piepho and the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors accepted the report on the "Vasco Safety Improvement Project" as well as directed Maurice Shiu, Director of Contra Costa County Public Works, to proceed with the plans for specified safety improvements and install a barrier along a significant 2.5 mile portion of Vasco Road.

In 2003 the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors formed the Vasco Road Safety Task Force to address the need of increased safety for travelers of Vasco Road. Contra Costa County Public Works Department has since worked with traffic and design consultants Nolte Associates Inc. to analyze possible safety improvements on Vasco Road.

The project formed by the Vasco Road Safety Task Force plans to widen and construct a 2.5 mile concrete median barrier along Vasco Road beginning approximately three miles north of the Contra Costa/Alameda County line. The existing 2-lane section will be widened to provide drivers a southbound passing lane along with concrete median barriers. Also, the existing 3-lane segment, which lies north of the 2-lane section, will also be widened to provide a pavement width necessary to allow the median barrier's construction. Associated signing, striping, turn pockets and barrier end-treatments will be constructed as necessary to accommodate the installation of median barriers.

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The primary focus of the project will be the installation of a southbound passing lane and concrete median barrier. Should additional funding become available, widening and installation of median barriers will extend in the northerly direction into the 3-lane segment. The limits of this extension will be dependent upon available funding.

Contra Costa County District III Supervisor Mary Piepho stated "The benefit of a barrier has clearly been recognized." Supervisor Piepho continued, "I am pleased the County can move forward with a barrier proposal as we continue to advocate for a four lane divided route to link Alameda and Contra Costa Counties."

This project is currently partially funded through a federal earmark, East County Regional Fee and Financing Authority traffic mitigation fees and Proposition 1B funds. The full project funding remains to be determined.

For more information please contact Supervisor Mary N. Piepho's office at (925) 820-8682.

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